XLIII...No. 13,539.

FRAUDS IN THE CONTRACT SYSTEM. THE RESULTS OF FALSE ESTIMATES AND let six months later to James Slattery on a bid of UNBALANCED BIDS.

FURTHER DETAILS SHOWING THE OUTRAGEOUS ABUSES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC

THE TRIBUNE of yesterday contained a startling array of facts and figures proving conclusively that the taxpayers of New-York are st., he bid \$4,295, and the returns showed his earnrobbed of immense sums by means of a corrupt system of contracts. Through false estimates on the part of engineers and unbalanced bids on the part of contractors, the city is to the actual quantity of work required. But in forced to pay enormous prices for work which really costs the contractors little. Not only this, but these abuses lead to the vacation and reduction of assessments to the amount of millions of dollars, and these have to be paid out of the city treasury. The Public Works Department is chiefly responsible for this plundering of trust funds, but other departments are also gravely in fault.

The exposures of yesterday were confined to contracts for street improvements, in which an appalling state of affairs was revealed. Additional facts about these contracts are given herewith, and the sewer contracts, which are also in the Department of Public Works, are taken up. It was shown yesterday that in contracts for exactly the same kind of street excavation the prices varied from one cent to eight dollars per cubic yard. In similar work for sewers the prices vary from one cent to thirty dollars per cubic yard. The rates on other kinds of work vary in like manner. In all cases the contractors are shown to profit enormously by reason of the misleading estimates prepared by the Department of Public Works. In one case the estimate called for 10 cubic yards of rock excavation, and 121 cubic yards were taken out, for which the contractor was paid \$30 a cubic yard. Numbers of contracts of this kind are now in force in this department.

FALSE ESTIMATES FOR SEWER CONTRACTS. THE CITY SUFFERING HEAVILY FROM THE INCOM-PETENCE OR DISHONESTY OF ITS AGENTS.

The contracts let out on unbalanced bids in the Public Works Department are not confined to regulating and grading streets. The same system exists in letting out contracts for building sewers. This work also is paid for by the issue of bonds, and is entirely under the charge of Mr. Thompson, except in the Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth Wards. In building sewers there is earth and rock excavation to be made as in street regulating, but there are also such other items as culverts to be built, and timber and receiving basins to be furnished. The prices paid by the Public Works Department for the same kind of work vary in an extraordinary manner. For building a brick sewer, 3x2 feet, Hugh Duffy is paid \$10 90 per lineal foot, and for the same work on other contracts the following prices are paid: M. J. Kane, \$3 50; John McKim & Son, \$19 89; V. Clark, \$12 80; H. Tone, \$4; Nutt & Kearns, \$11 47; and Denis McGrath, \$3 50. For rock excavation the prices vary from 1 cent per cubic yard to \$30, the latter price having been paid to John Slattery.

MR. SLATTERY'S PROFITABLE PIECE OF ROCK WORK A specimen contract was that given out by Mr. Thompson for a sewer in One-hundred-forty-firstet between Seventh and Eighth ave Slattery was the fortunate man on this occasion as on many others. This contract was not a large one but it nexted Mr. Slattery a sung little sum-just 110 per cent more than his bid. The items in the contract, (which was made October 24, 1881, a few days before the election) with the estimates and re-

turns were as	follow	:			
	Linea! foot sewer.	Cable yards of rock	Lum- ber.	Total of bid.	Amount Paid.
Estimate Returns	700 700	10 121	5,000 1,718	\$2,750	\$5,781
Price	\$3 00	\$30 00	\$30 00		

In this case Slattery got a good price for sewer and plank while his price on rock-\$30-was such that no official anxious to serve the city would have awarded him the contract. The other bids for rock were \$3 50 and \$4 50 except in the case of Excise Commissioner Nicholas Haughton. He, with a partner, bid for rock \$20, but they failed to get low enough on the sewer. Slattery's bid on that item was 98 cents per lineal foot less than that of Haughton, and as the 700 feet of sewer formed the principal item on which the estimate was figured, Mr. Slattery's "experience" enabled him to secure the work. But when the work was done the rock exeavation cost \$3,630 while the 700 feet of sewer cost only \$2,100. But on the basis of the estimate the rock would have cost only \$300. For the difference in cost to the city between \$300 and \$3,630 the taxpayers can thank the peculiar class of surveyors employed by the Commissioner of Public Works.

THE KEEN INSIGHT OF ABRAHAM DOWDNEY. Another specimen of this peculiar way of letting out contracts is shown in the returns on a sewer built in West End-ave. Abraham Dowdney was the successful applicant for the contract. His bid was \$11,980, but the returns on his contract showed that his earnings were \$14,410, or \$2,489 more than his bid, an increase of 20 per cent. The returns and the estimates on this work varied as

	Lineal feet of sewer.	Lineal feet culvert.	Cubic yards of rock ex- cavation.	Feet timber.	Total bid.	Amount earned.
Estimate Return	1,530 1,535	300 272	600 1,376	7,000 869	\$11,980	\$14,419
Price	\$5	\$1	\$4	\$10 per M		

than that of Dowdney, but Nichols bid \$1 more per lineal foot for culvert, and \$20 a thousand feet for timber, although he bid \$1 less per cubic yard for rock than Dowdney. It was what the Public Works Department calls a coincidence that on the items on which Dowdney bid low a good deal less was required than estimated, but on rock, on which he bid a high price, a great deal more had to be done than the estimate called for. If Nichols had obtained the contract-although his total bid was higher than Dowdney's-the city would have saved

considerable money.

Patrick Mulholland was equally fortunate in a sewer contract which he obtained. His total bid was \$6,025, but he was paid for the work \$9,464. Like Dowdney, his bid for rock was \$4 a cubic yard. It was the highest bid for that item among all the proposals, and, of course, as another poincidence there was a good deal more rock to be taken out than the estimate called for.

JAMES SLATTERY FOLLOWING IN JOHN'S FOOTSTEPS. In November, 1880, proposals were received by the Commissioner of Public Works for building a lewer in First-ave, between Twenty-first and I wenty-fourth sts. There were thirteen bids,

HOW THE CITY IS PLUNDERED. seven of which were below \$7,000. The lowest other cases the contractor failed to do work. It was re-advertised and for \$5,680. But even on his second bid Mr. Slattery received from the city 34 per cent more than the amount of his bid. This was due to the estimates, as usual the returns showing that 232 cubic yards more of rock (at \$4) were taken out than the

estimated amount in the advertisement.

In a contract which Patrick Mulholland obtained for building a sewer in One-hundred-and-fifteenthings to be \$5,912. In this instance the estimate for culvert was 820 lineal feet, and the returns showed that 819 feet were built, thus indicating how closely an estimate can be made to correspond another item of the contract there was a very material difference. The estimate called for 6,000 feet of timber, while the returns showed that 61,414 feet were used. The "coincidence" in this case was that Mulholland bid \$5 more a thousand for this timber than other contractors offered to furnish it for.

OTHER FORTUNATE CONTRACTORS. In building a sewer in Ninth-ave., Joseph D. Nutt and Patrick Kerwin were fortunate in securing from the city 15 per cent more than the amount of their bid. In this case the estimate was for ninety eet of culvert, but only eighty-two feet were built. The price on this item was, of course, low, but when it came to rock excavation there was a different state of affairs. The price paid was \$3 89 a cubic yard. The estimate called for 175 cubic yards, while the returns showed that 491 cubic yards were taken out.

In building a sewer in Seventy-seventhst., John McKim & Son (with whom Maurice Flynn, one of Mr. Tompson's chief supporters, is closely associated) were able to earn by the returns 20 per cent more than the face of their bid. This was due to the fact that the estimate called for 450 cubic yards of rock excavation, while 697 feet were returned as taken out at \$3 89 a cubic yard.

In another sewer contract M. P. H. Casey was able to earn 30 per cent more than his bid, because the estimate called for 200 cubic yards of rock excavation, while 1,435 cubic yards were taken out. AMAZING DIFFERENCES IN PRICE FOR EXACTLY SIMILAR WORK.

The table printed below will show at a glance the extraordinary differences in prices paid to contractors by Commissioner Thompson for sewer work of the same class. The prices opposite each name represent the figures on one contract only. Where no quotations are given no work of that kind was done under that contract, It will be seen that Hugh Duffy, Nutt & Kearns, J. Phelan, V. Clark, J. D. Miner and Abraham Dowdney, are willing to take out rock for the modest price of 1 cent per cubic yard, while John Slattery demands the enormous compensation of \$30 per yard. Slattery's rock evidently must have required diamond drills to cut it. But the modest contractors who want only 1 cent per yard for rock excavation compensate themselves in all cases by the extravagant rates which they charge for other branches of work covered by their contracts. The tremendous variations in the prices in this table afford a profitable field for the study of taxpayers:

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Fame.	Rock Excav	Brick Sev 3 ft by per lin. 5	15 inch cu	Receivin	Thube per M fe	12 inch cut	
Nutt & Kerwin	53 80	84 00	8	\$125.00	£80 00	§	
J. A Devlin		5.90	make.	*****	10:00	****	
Hugh Duffy	01	10.90	01	01	*****	*****	
Patrick Relily		4.81			22.00		
Patrick Relly John Slattery	10	8.00			12.00		
John Slattery	30 00	3 50			30.00		
Cornelius Smith	0.00000	6 80					
John McKim & Son.	05	7 95			40.00		
John McKim & Son.				100 00	1.00		
John McKim & Son	0.5				1.00		
Cornelius Smith				********	20.00		
M. J. Kane	EKOOM.	3 60		COTT ATTE			
Denis McGrath	5.00	3 50			16.00		
Lawrence Rock		5 30		145 00	30.00		
John Phelan.	0.000				01		
J. S. Masterson	4.00		F * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	******			
F. Bradburn		8.25					
Matthew Baird	3 50	4.13					
Matthew Baird	2.00	8.00				1.5	
Matthew Baird	2.50	4.50			20.00	1.56	
Nutt & Kearns,	01	11 47		01	01	0	
H. Tone	3 75	4 00	*****	100 00	10 00	2.0	
J. Phelan	01			165 00	01	1.5	
Lawrence Rock			TREEST		20 00	2.5	
V. Clark.		12 80	2 00	125 00	61		
Nutt & Kearns	01				01	0	
Patrick Mulholland	172/125			100000	25-00	15	
Patrick Mulhelland	4 00		*****	140 00	30 00	10	
J. S. Masterson.	3 00				01		
J. D. Miner	01				35.75		
Patrick Mulholland	******			01	******		
John McKim & Son.,	10				01		
James Baird	6.00				20.00		
Abraham Dowdney.	01			****	20 00	15570	
Abraham Dowdney	4.00	0.00			10 00	1.0	

THE CONTROLLER'S SUSPICIONS AROUSED-HOW

FAVORED CONTRACTORS GROW RICH. Soon after Controller Grant took possession of his office his attention was attracted to the apparent fraud in street contracts by the developments in one that came before him for payment. This was a contract let for "regulating, grading, setting curb and gutter stones and flagging Sixty-second-st. from Tenth to Eleventh aves." It is a fair specimen of the contracts in the Public Works Department, and throws light upon the entire rotten system of conducting street improvements. The contract was let on August 15, 1882, to Daniel K. Gallagber. Like all such contracts it was let, after being advertised in The City Record, on estimates prepared by the Public Works Department. These estimates, while not guaranteed to be absolutely exact, are supposed to be prepared by competent engineers, and to be as nearly correct as possible, And as a good price is paid for the job, the honest bidder has a right to expect that the estimates will not be far astray on the developments of the work. It is on record in evidence of expert engineers before the Supreme Court and the Assessent Commission that estimates honestly made will vary very slight'y from the final returns. The excavations are made only two feet below the street grade. Hence a competent engineer cannot go far astray in making estimates for regulating streets. If the proportions in the various items of an estimate are anything like what will be required in the work, all the bidders will be on an equal footing. But when the estimates are made out to represent a state of things exactly the opposite of what really exists, and one or more of the bidders krow that this is the case, while others are in ignorance of the fact, it is plain that the bidders are not on even ground. Hence it comes that prices are paid out of all proportion to the value of the work, assessments are vacated, and the city defrauded of large sums of money.

MR. GALLAGHER'S BIG PROFIT ON EARTH EXCAVA-

The Gallagher contract, to which the Controller's attention was first called, was let on August 15. 1882. The principal items in the estimates were for rock and earth excavations, though there were curbing and flagging to be done. The estimates and bids were as follows:

Names.	820 cubic yards earth excava- tion per yard.	2,840 yards rock excavation per yard.	1,090 cubic yards filling.	Total of bid.
allagher	\$5 50	01	00	\$4,922
	4 00	40	00	6,523
	2 50	2 25	00	8,881

Mr. Gallagher was awarded the contract at the prices named by him, his total bid being lower than either one of the other two. But it was evident that he knew the estimates were misleading. A fair price for the earth excavation according to other contracts then in force would have been 40

Continued on Second Page.

EGYPTIANS DEFEATED.

A STUBBORN BATTLE NEAR SUAKIM.

THE FLOWER OF THE ARMY CUT TO PIECES AND THEIR ARTILLERY CAPTURED,

CAIRO, Dec. 9 .- News has reached Aden that a great force of hill tribes attacked five companies of Egyptian troops, which were reconnoitering outside of Suakim on December 5, and that severe fighting ensued, in which the Egyptians were completely annihilated and their artillery captured.

Another account of the Egyptian defeat says that spies entered Suakim and reported that the hill men were hovering near the town. On hearing this, Mahmond Taper Pacha, auxious to efface the defeat at Tokhar on November 6, on account of which a court-martial was pending, sent forward 500 black troops and 200 Bashi-Bazouks against the hill tribes, he himself remaining at Suakim. At the distance of three hours' march from the town the Egyptians were attacked by several thousand They fought stubbornly, but were

men. They fought stubbornly, but were cut to pieces. Fifty, of whom half were officers, escaped. This defeat of the troops which have hitherto been regarded as the flower of the Army has caused great consternation here, as it tends to show that the task of opening the route from Snakim to Berber with the material at Baker Pacha's disposal is a nearly hopeless one.

London, Dec. 16.—The Cairo correspondent of The Daily News says: "Twenty cavalrymen accompanied the Egyptian force which was defeated near Suakin. The total loss was 680 men. There were two European officers with the force, and the whole was under the command of an Egyptian Major. The surviving officers say they were surrounded by 5,000 men. The Egyptians formed a square, the black troops being stationed on three faces and the Bashi-Bazouks on the fourth face of the square. The latter fell back, throwing the black troops into disorder."

The latter fell back, throwing the black toops disorder."

The blacks fought with great bravery. One gun and all the arms and ammunition were lost. In consequence of the disaster the garrison at Suakin is reduced to 1,000 men. Dervishes are appearing in Upper Egypt who propose to preach a holy war. The whole country beyond Egypt proper is ablaze. Constantinopie, Dec. 9.—The Sultan has dispatched an aide-de-camp to Hediaz and two court deruishes to the Soudau on errands relating to Ei Mahdi's revolt.

THE CROWN PRINCE ENTERTAINED. SEVILLE, Dec. 9 .- The Crown Prince arrived here to-day. He was received at the depot by the Duc de Montpensier, who gave a banquet in the Prince's honor this evening.

RESIGNATION OF SIGNOR LOVITO. Rome, Dec. 9.—Signor Lovito, who fought a duel with Baron Nicotera on Friday last, has resigned the Secretaryship of the Ministry of the Interior. Both

A PRELATE'S CHANGE OF FAITH. ROME, Dec. 9.-Monsignor Savarese, doctor f civil and canon law, and until recently the Pope's domestic prelate, has left the Roman Catholic Church, To-day he was received into the communion of the Episcopal Church by Dr. Nevin, in St. Paul's American Church, on his confossion of the Ni-cene Creed and his abjuration of the degmas of the im-maculate conception and Papai infallibility. He asks for the guidance and protection of the Anglican episcopate against the usurpations of the Bishop of Rome.

THE AUSTRALIAN CONFERENCE. SYDNEY, N. S. W., Dec. 9.—The Intercolonial Conference, before adjourning, passed resolutions against the landing in New-Guinea of convicts from other islands, and against recognizing purchasers of land in New Guines before British dominion over that island was es

THE CHINESE ROUTED BY THE FRENCH. London, Dec. 10.-A dispatch from Hong Kong to The Daily News says: " A Chinese night attack Kong to Inc Daily Steep and Steep to Halphong has been frustrated by the Brench. The Chinese advanced close to Halphong and burned a village. French guibeats and troops were dispatched to the seene and the enemy was routed."

CHARGED WITH MURDERING A BOY. Hamilton, Ont., Dec. 9.—In June George Mitchell, age nine, quarrelled with Rachel Babcock when the latter struck him on the head with a file, from the effects of which he died to-day. Rachel has been arrested on a charge of murder.

ZORA BURNS'S MURDERER.

ARREST OF JOHN W. HUNTER ON SUSPICION-HIS TORY OF THE CASE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] PEORIA, Ill., Dec. 9 .- At a late hour last night John W. Hunter was arrested, charged with the murder of Zora Burns at Lincoln, Ill. Hunter was known here under the name of "Tom" Russell, and in Lincoln as Tom" Vance. He is kept closely confined, and reporters

are refused interviews. Zora Eurus, a prepossessing young girl, was found in a ne on Monday morning, October 14, with her throat cut and bruises on her head. Her valise and gossamer were missing and have never been found.

Letters were afterward found which seemed to indicate that there had been an intimacy between her and Orrin Carpenter, her former employer, who was a prominent grain merchant at Lin coln. This led to his arrest. After an exciting prelimi nary examination, during which threats of lynching were made, he gave bail for his appearance for trial in Janu ary. The evidence against Carpenter was apparently of a damaging character, although it did not connect him directly with the crime. Hunter's arrest was effected by a detective in Carpenter's employ. During the examination of Carpenter his attorney received a letter "John W. Hunter," stating that the was possessed of important evidence against Carpenter, and threatening to divulge it unless Carpenter sent \$300 to an address which he gave. This letter was thought to have been intended for the prosecution, as a ruse by the real murderer to increase the suspicion resting on Carpenter. Search for the man Hunter was made far and wide, but he was not found until last night. It is ctaimed that at the time of the murder Hunter was in Lincoln, where he bought a shirt and wrote "Vanee" on the cuff in the presence of a clerk. The shirt was afterward found by Levison, who effected Hunter's arrest through the similarity of writing on the cuff and in the Hunter letter. The officers refuse to divulge their evidence connecting Hunter with the killing of Zora Burns. Carpenter, and threatening to divulge

PHŒBE PAULLIN'S MURDER.

HENRY MAHAN UNDER ARREST AT NEWTON-HIS

HISTORY-DENIAL OF GUILT. IRY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE. NEWTON, N. J., Dec. 9 .- Henry Mahan, who is suspected of the murder of Phesbe Paullin, of Orange, has been visited by hundreds of persons to-day. The

He says he was born in New-York, but refuses to give his history. He worked for Simpson & Macanley, of No 352Fourth-av., New-York for over four years. He was discharged last July and so has since been in the employ of Babbitt, the soapmaker, of New-York. He boarded in Ferry-st., Newark, up to last November. On November 20 he arrived at Washington, Warren County, and was there for a week selling soap and powder. and was there for a week same, soap and powers the siept at Mrs. Frome's boarding-house, in Washington, on the night of the murder. He next went to Hacketts-town and from there to Btroudsburg, Penn., on Friday last; and was arrested on Saturday while selling soap. He has a book of dates and sales made by him since he

He has a book of dates and sales made by him since he left Newark.

The officers claim they can identify him as one of the men seen near the spot where bloody garments were found near this place the morning a ter the Paullin murder, and have tracked him since that time up to his arrest; that his story is untrue, as witnesses will testify who have met him on the highway and at their homes where he stopped for something to cat. He is a small man, has a heavy mustable, is fairly dressed, and is quite attractive in his manners and appearance. He has been recognized by persons as one of the men seen here three days after the murder. The examination of the prisoner will take place Tuesday.

George Franck, the Orange saloon keeper and witness in the Paullin case, who attempted to cide on Friday, was better yesterday and his chances are improving. He manifests a great desire to live now, and obeys the physician's instructions in regard to abstaining

SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTION GASES.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9 .- Respecting the probable result of the election cases at Columbia, S. C., a naive citizen of that State, under date of December 6, writes to a friend in Washington as follows: "The cases to be tried will most likely result in no conviction, for as the juries are now constituted under the law, it will be impossible to secure twelve men on any panel who will

NEW-YORK, MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1883. all regard their oath as more binding than their political opinions. This is a hard saying, but plain truth."

> THE SPEAKERSHIP OF THE ASSEMBLY. EX-SPEAKER LITTLEJOHN'S ACTIVE CANVASS-THE PRESIDENT NEUTRAL-MR, ROOSEVELT.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] ALBANY, Dec. 9 .- The Legislature will not meet until New Year's day, but it is already apparent that a large proportion of of the Republican Assemblywili be here the week previous, attracted by the contest for the Speakership. This contest has been of a lively nature from the moment that it was evident that a Republican Assembly had been elected.

Additional interest was given to it the past week by the

announcement of ex-Speaker DeWitt C. Littlejohn, of Oswego, that he intends to become an active candidate. Hitherto he has been a quiescent one; merely announcing that he was willing to accept of the office of Speaker if the Republican Assemblymen were willing to confer the honor upon him. Some politicians say that the spectacle of Messrs. Sheard, Roosevelt and Erwin rushing about the State seeking votes for themselves for Speaker irritated Mr. Littlejohn. A juster explanation of Mr. Littlejohn's change of policy was given a few days ago by an eminent Republican politician: "Mr. Littleiohn has begun an active canvass for the Speaker-ship only at the solicitation of many leaders of the Republican party. He is a man of mark; one of the most noted, Republicans in this State. He was Speaker of the Assembly in 1855, 1857, 1859, 1860 and 1861, and is therefore peculiarly well fitted for the position. It is well to state that his strength of body and mind is undiminished, and that he will take a distinguished position in the Assembly whether or not elected Speaker. But the Republican party could not do a wiser thing than to put this trained and eminent man in the office of Speaker Mr. Littlejohn came to this city and saw the leading Re-publican politicians here, and then went on to New-York, where, it was understood, he met many of the leaders of Republican organizations there. Ex-Speaker Husted, of Westchester County, is said to be warmly pressing Mr. Littlejohn's claims upon the attention of the Republican Assemblymen. Ex-Speaker George B. Sloan, of Oswego, also naturally supports the candidacy of his neighbor, Mr. Littlejohn, and from his wide acquaintance with Republican politicians can materially aid the latter in his

The contest continues to be as good-natured as when it begun. All of the candidates are men of unblemished records in the Assembly, and can be expected to organize its committees in the interest of honest government. There will be, therefore, no "hurling of charges" when the There will be, therefore, no "hurling of charges" when the conflict grows more intense. Nor is there any token that the National Administration will interfere in the contest. One who is well acquainted with its plans said to-day: "President Arthur is anxious to keep the Republican party united in this State, and regards the Speakership of the Assembly as too slight an office for which to imperif the present union in the party by putting on any Administration pressure in favor of this or that candidate." James D. Warren, of Buffalo, a close friend of the President and conversant, if any one, is with as pelitical plans, in answer to the assertion of Democratic newspapers that the contest is to be a factional one said in The lingfalo Commercial Adsertizer recently in relation to Messrs. Sheard, Erwin and Roosevelt: "If these gentlemen are to be classified according to past athilations, they all belong to the same school of Republican politics. But it happens also that they are all good Republicans, and discountenance every effort to continue factional times. They are men of ability, repute and experience, and either one will make a Speaker of whom the Republican party will have no occasion to feel ashamed." Some benevolent-minded Democratic newspapers have also said that certain Republicans who are catabilates for United States Senator are also taking part in the contest. This is an error. No eminent Republican who has been spoken of as a candidate for Senator is mixing in the contest. It is perceived by such candidates that they would only exerte the entity of Assemblymen needlessly by interference, and they interplaced the continuity of Assemblymen needlessly by interference, and they therefore refrain from taking such a course.

Mr. Erwin, of St. Lawrence Country, was here the past week, and made the usual pligrimase to New-York. He and Mr. Sheard, living as they do in close proximity, are in conflict over the same Assemblymen from this County of Albany to the frame of the courter of the country of the same of onflict grows more intense. Nor is there any token that the National Administration will interfere in the contest.

THE OHIO SENATORSHIP,

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

CLEVELAND, Dec. 9.—General Durbin Ward was in this city yesterday. He is growing more confident of his chances to fill Senator Pendleton's shoes. Ward's friends held a meeting in Columbus on Thursday. The principal topic discussed was the importance of having a secret ballot. All those who were present were strenuous in their advocacy of it. Some one in the interest of candidates has filled Ward's car with a conning tale about the dates has filled Ward's car with a cunning tale about the advantage of a secret ballot, until he actually believes thas it is absolutely to his interest to have one.

The movement in favor of Henry B. Payne continues to cain in force and volume. It is recognized by thoughtful Democrats in all parts of the State that Mr. Payne is the candidate of the nen who carried Ohio. It was claimed by some of the sanguine members of Pendleton's household that Cartisle's election as Speaker would help their chief, but it has about as much to do with the Ohio Senatorial fight as the length of Ohio cornstalky has with the price of butter in Paris.

A WILD MAN IN OHIO WOODS,

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] New-Lisson, Ohio, Dec. 9 .- "Bob" Bradley and Henry Rauch, two Columbiana County sportsmen, while out hunting a few days ago, were pursued by a wild The monster is covered with hair and looks like a bear. The story of the wild man has greatly excited the people in the "icinity. The two hunters were in the woods near Spruce Vale, a few miles north of Calcutta. This part of the forest was, some years ago, the resort of horse theives and counterfeiters, and of late has been eldom visited. The story of the hunters is that while seldom visited. The story of the hunters is that while hunting in the vicinity of this retreat they heard a slight noise near a rugged clift, and saw a huge hairy object, apparently half man and half beast, spring from behind the clift, and start for the woods, running with the speed of the wind. Mistaking it for an animal, one of the hunters fired at it. The shot appeared to take effect in the arm; for, with a scream of pain, the creature halted, tapped the wound, and, turning, charged its pursuers, who with empty guns in hand dared not measure strength with such a foc. Dropping their guns, both sought safety in flight.

"HIX'S FIX" IN CHICAGO.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] CHICAGO, Dec. 9 .- "Hix's Fix " was produced at Haverly's Theatre to-night, as announced by Mestayer & Barton, managers, "for the first time on any stage." It is called "a true picture of an actor's life," and the play-bill says it is managerial episode in three acts," written by managerial episode in three acts," written by Charles F. Pidgirn and Dexter Smith. It proved to be but a flimsy framework for the introduction of variety performances. It seemed to please a Sunday-nicht audience, but the critics agree that it is without merit. Robert E. Graham, formerly of Minnie Palmer's company, as "Macy Simpson Crawford Altman," a would-be actor," made the only hit, "Harry "Bloodgood was "Colonel Vere De Vere Hiz," Mr. Smith, Marie Prescott's manager, is authority for the statement that not only was the play not written for Mestayer & Barton, but it was produced all over New-England under another name by Bloodgood.

BRIBERY CHARGES TO BE ABANDONED.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] Albany, Dec. 9 .- Judge Osborne, who is holding a session of the Supreme Court here, said to-night that he understood that District-Attorney Herrick would offer a motion to-morrow to enter a nolle prosequi in the cases of A. D. Barber, " Ed." Phelps and another, charged with attempted bribery and corruption in the Senatorial contest in 1881. The cause of the motion is understood to be the failure of the Jury to convict ex-Senator L. B. Sessions in October of a charge which covers the alleged crime of these same men. Attorney-General Russell agrees with the District-Attorney in the usclessness of trying the present cases. Barber arrived at the Delayan to-night.

trying the present cases. Barber arrived at the Delayan to-night.

POSSIBLY A SHREWD TRICK.

IN TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

CLEVELAND, Dec. 9.—A Cleveland medical college bought the body of one of the burglars recently killed at shelby, and brought it here for dissection. The police thought they recognized the corpse as that of "Tom" Reland, a noted burglar who had been a friend "Tom" Reland, a noted burglar who had been a friend of Jesse James. Reland lived in the village of Parma,

and was the leader of a desperate band of robbers. A woman who said she was his wife claimed the body, took it to Parms, and a funeral service followed. The announcement is now made that Roland is still alive, that the body is that of another man, and that Mrs. Roland claimed the body to allow Roland to visit his old home hereafter without fear of arrest.

RAILWAY INTERESTS.

A TALK ABOUT THE BROADWAY ARCADE.

PRESIDENT M. C. SMITH ENCOURAGED BY HIS STUDY OF THE LONDON UNDERGROUND ROAD.

Sitting in his office in the Boreel building on Saturday, Melville C. Smith, president of the Broadway Underground Railway Company, chatted with a TRIBUNE reporter regarding his recent visit to Europe. Mr. Smith spent several months, in com-pany with Frederick Blanc, an engineer, and Jerome Fassler, one of the directors, in examining the London underground roads and the sewer system of Paris. Ex-Secretary Windom was with the party a portion of the

"We found from our investigations," said Mr. Smith, "that we could hereafter easily meet the objections urged against an underground road in Broadway. For instance, one of them most frequently made is the effect of vibrations upon the foundations of adjacent build-In London the underground roads cover a circuit of some twenty miles, and of course they had to contend with all sorts of obstacles and obstrucstructions. The road passes under streets, squares blocks of buildings, churches, immense broweries filled with grain, and in one case directly under a monument weighing nearly 200 tons, the result being, as the chief engineer said to me, 'our road extends some twenty nules: has been in operation nearly a score of years, and we have not injured the wall of any building, nor had to pay a dollar damages.' It has been shown by indisputable proofs, by tesis with quicksilver placed in the second story of buildings, that the jar and vibration from trains of cars running on the earth are less than are produced by an ordinary vehicle running over the street pavement. As the proposed areade railway would not run within eighteen feet of any building—there being first the width of the sidewalk, eighteen feet—and then the way track for slow trains, the centre of the street only being used for rapid trainst—it will readily be seen that there could not be the least possible disturbance or danger to the adjacent buildings. with grain, and in one case directly under a monumen

slow trains, the centre of the street only being used for rapid transit—it will readily be seen that there could not be the least possible disturbance or danger to the adjacent buildings.

"Now, as to the strength of our structure," continued Mr. Smith, "the width of Broadway is 80 feet, and in one place we had contemplated a row of iron columns in the centre of the street. In London, roadways, public squares and even heavy buildings are supported by cast iron girders, and in many instances the span exceeds 30 feet. As the result of our examinations there, our engineers are of the opinion that their previous estimates for the sustaining power of the iron work have been considerably greater than necessary, and that the centre tier of columns will not be required.

"The depression at Canal-st., which is frequently spoken of, cannot compare with like difficulties in London. At Canal-st., it is 11 feet 8 inches to high-water mark, while the entire depth of the Arcade would be less than 18 feet. The depression in Broadway is short, while in London the road is constructed for long distances more than 20 feet below the river Thames. High grades on the London road are quite frequent and in some instances they are one foot in forty feet—far greater than any grade on our road.

"They claim to run at the rate of about twenty-five miles an hour on the London inderground road, but they have to make frequent stops, as they accommodate way and through travel on the same track. The Arcade road will provide perfect accommodation for way travel; the depots on the track for through travel will be about a mine apart, and the trains will make thrity miles per hour. As this is much more than twice the rate of speed of which the elevated roads are capable, and as eight cars or more to a train can be drawn on the solid ground, while the air-roads never have more than four, it would make the capacity of a single track on the Arcade more than four of the elevated."

THE NEW "NICKLE-PLATE EXPRESS."

CLEVELAND, Dec. 9 .- A fast freight line has been formed to be called the "Nickle-Plate Express," to run over the New-York Central, Boston and Albany, Nickel Plate and Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati and Indianapolis rounds, from New-York and Boston to Cincinnait and St. Louis. The establishment of this new line was completed in New-York City, and is the outcome of the New-York Central's notice to the Troy and Boston that it would discontinue the forwarding of freight over the line to feeston, a virtual withdrawal from the Hoesac Tinnel line, which notices from the Canada Southern, the Lake Shore. Ceveland, Columbus, Cuchinnati and Indianapolis and Michigan Central. This leaves in the Hoesac Tinnel line the Grand Tronk and West Shore, if reports concerning their trails agreements be true, and the Troy and Boston and the Fitchbarg line. The new line will probably have a Southwestern connection from Chicago, over the Wabash. Whatever the plans of the new line, it can but help the Nickel late and the Columbus Foad, and solve the problem which has been a bugbear to the majority of railroad men and others since the Nickel-Plate was purchased by the Vanderbilt interest. cinnati and St. Louis. The establishment of this new

A NEW WESTERN ROAD.

CHEYENNE, W. T., Dec. 9 .- Articles of incorparation were filed yesterday by the Wyoming, Yellowstone Park and Pacific Railway Company. Among the porators are L. Dupont, powder manufact R. Converse, president of the First National Bank of Cheyenne, and Governor Hale, of Wyoming. The road will run through the coal, fron, soda and petroleum region of Western Wyoming, in the National Park and Montana, and its construction will begin in the spring.

SINGULAR RAILROAD ACCIDENT.

SAVANNAH, Gu., Dec. 9 .- A dispatch to The News from Way Cross, Ga., says: "To-day the Savan-nah fast mail train ran into a passenger train at the crossing of the two train at the crossing of the two roads. The engine of the Savannah train struck the mail car of the other train, throwing it up against the Brunswick and Western depot and completely wrecking the building and car. A negro boy, who was on the platform, was instantly killed. The agent and the telegraph operator, who were in the building, narrowly escaped being killed by the failing timbers. The messenger of the Western Union Telegraph Company was buried in the ruins, but was uninjured.

ALLEGED BREACH OF PROMISE.

NEW-LONDON, Dec. 9 .- There is a bitter feeling in Groton against George S. Avery, a thriving merchant, who is charged by Mrs. Giles Avery with having broken off a marriage engagement with her. She says the wedding was to have taken place last Thursday, but she was have taken place last Thursday, but she was informed by Avery on Tuesday that it was indefinitely postponed. On Friday night a mob smashed Avery's store-front, hanged him in effigy and threatened to tar and feather him. On Saturday night he was again hanged in effigy, the latter remaining suspended all day Sunday. Avery denies the widow's charges. Warrants have been issued for the arrest of the leaders of the mob.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE OF A BOOKKEEPER.

Peter Winkle, age thirty-three, a German who has been fifteen months in this country, attempted to kill himself shortly after 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon, in his boarding-house at No. 121 Eldridge-st., by shooting himself in the head with a pistol. Winkle had been a himself in the head with a platon.

bookkeeper and was out of employment. Last night after he had spent his last cent, his despondency culminated in despair. The ball glanced from the side of his head and did not enter the skull. He was taken to Believue Hospital, where he told the doctor the weapon

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE YALE NAVY NEW-HAVEN, Dec. 9 .- The officers of the Yale Navy have decided to suggest certain amendments to the constitution at the next meeting of the University Boar Club. They propose that two sub-treasurers be appointed to assist the treasurer; that the executive committee shall consist of the president, captain and a graduate selected by the advisory committee; that at elections for captain of the may the chairman may east the deciding vote, in case of a tie, and that the president may be a member of the crew. It is believed that the amendments will be carried almost without dissent. to assist the treasurer; that the executive committee

A FATAL AFFRAY IN SCRANTON.

SCRANTON, Penn., Dec. 9 .-- An altercation arose SCRANTON, Fellin, Dec. 3. A natural control is a liquor store at Taylorsville. Thomas left the place and was followed by Wilson, who fired several shots from a revolver at Thomas, fatally wounding him. Wilson was arrested, but afterward escaped.

TELEGRAPHIC NOTES.

THE BASEBALL RESERVE RULE BROKEN.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 9.—W. C. Henderson, manager of the Baltimore Union Club, states to high that L. J. Corcoran, one of the pitchers of the League, has broken the reserve rule, and yestermlay signed to play with the Chicago Union Association Club.

BRON MILLS PROBABLY TO CLOSE.

LANCASTER, Penn., Dec. 9.—The Penn Iron Company, of this city, has given notice to its puddlers of a 10 per cent reduction to take effect December 15. It is probable that the works will shut down, as the workmen refuse to accept the reduction.

PRICE THREE CENTS.

THE HOUSE COMMITTEES. A FORECAST OF THEIR COMPOSITION.

THE SPEAKER SILENT, BUT SPECULATION ACTIVE-PROBABLE PRIZE, WINNERS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.-Speaker Carlisle has probably not fully decided in his own mind as to the chair-manship of more than four or five of the committees, nor as to the committee places which more than a dozen men are to fill; but every one of the 196 Democrats knows exactly what place he wants and is thoroughly persuaded that his abilities and merits entitles him it. Congressmen are not reticent as to their desires, and they are not modest in pressing their "claims" personally or through friends. The Speaker, however, keeps his own counsel remarkably well, and it is doubtful if he has personally consulted more than three or four men on the subject. Speculation is active, and by putting together scraps of information and keeping in mind the desires of prominent men who supported him, as well as some general principles by which it is conceded the Speaker will be guided, fairly good guesses can be made.

The situation of affairs now is in one important particular like that which existed when Mr. Kerr became Speaker eight years ago. He, like Mr. Carlisle, was a Revenue Reformer." Speaker Kerr placed Mr. Morrison at the head of the Ways and Means Committee, and Speaker Carlisle will do the same. The other Democratio members of that Committee in the XLIVth Congress were Messrs. Fernando Wood, Hancock, Thomas, Hill, Chapin, Tucker and Watterson. All of these men were " Revenue Reformers"; sive of them-Messrs. Chapin, Hill, Thomas, Tucker and Watterson-were new members of the House and five of the eleven mem-bers of the committee were Southern men. This furnishes a good precedent for Speaker Carlisle if he desires one. He may follow in several particulars the example set by Speaker Kerr. The Southern States received at least fair recognition in the XLIVth Congress. Of forty-three chairmanships, twenty-three were given to Southern men and twenty to Northern men-all of the latter to five States-Illinois, Indiana, New-York, Ohio and Pennsylvania, which had a total of 65 Democratic Representatives. New-England, which had 8 Democrats in Congress, received no chairmanship. Five other Northern States with 15 Democratic members were also ignored, white Missouri secured 5 chairmanships, Kentucky 4, Virginia 3, Tennessee and North Carolina 2 each, and all the other Southern States, except Texas, each 4. RANDALL AND BLACKBURN.

Speaker Kerr appointed Mr. Randall Chairman of the Appropriations Committee and there is a pretty strong impression that Speaker Carlisle will place him at the head of the same committee. This, however, is by no means certain. Mr. Blackburn's friends are extremely anxious for his premotion, and are using strong exertions to secure it. Some of them, who are near to the Speaker, assert with great confidence that Mr. Blackburn will be made chairman and that Mr. Randall will be offered the second place. The contest for the first place on the Appropriations Committee is, therefore, likely to be an interesting one, but unless the Kentuckian's friends are greatly mistaken, THE WAYS AND MEANS.

Of course, the struggle among members generally is greatest for places on the two leading committees-Appropriations and Ways and Means; the latter of which, it is said, will probably be increased from thirteen to fifteen members. Ameng the men whose names are most often and prominently mentioned for this Committee are: Morrison, chairman; Abram S. Hewitt, Hurd, Hancock of Texas, Thompson of Kentucky, Cobb of Indiana, Blount, and Hatch or Buckner, Democrats, and Kelly, Hiscock, Kasson, Mo Kinley and Russell, Republicans. The name of Mr. Tucker, of Virginia, is omitted, because his friends say he prefers the chairmanship of the Judiciary Committee. It is certain that he will have that place if he is not returned to the Ways and Means Committee. In the last session Mr. Haskell was one of the most useful members of that committee, but it is understood that ill health will prevent Jim from taking an active part in committee work this winter, and as a tariff bill is to be framed and brought in the minority of the committee will need all their men.

It is expected that among the Democratic members of the Appropriations Committee will be found Messrs. Holman, Singleton, Ellis, Mills, Dorsheimer and Follett, and among the Republicaus Messrs. Keifer, Camon and If Mr. Buckner is not given a place on the Ways and Means Committee he will probably have his old place as Chairman of the Banking and Cur-rency Committee, although Mr. Bland is said to have aspirations for that place. It is more likely, however, that he will be given the chairmanship of the Committee on Coinage, Weights and Measures, in order to defend the "buzzard" dollar, of which he is the proud parent.

There is some expectation that the Committee on Elections will be appointed this week, and it is thought that Mr. Hammond, of Georgia, or Mr. Moulton, of Illinois, will be chairman.

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The proposition to divide the work of the Commerce Committee and give the River and Harbor bill to a separate committee will be adopted in all probability. Mr. Reagan, of Texas, will probably have his old place as Chairman of the former committee, and some other southern man will be appointed to the new Committee on Rivers and Harbors. There has been some newspaper talk of Perry Belmout for Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, but among the best-informed politicians the general opinion is that 8. S. Cox will be appointed. Mr. Alken, of South Carelina, will probably be Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture.

ROSECRANS, HOLMAN AND SLOCUM. It was supposed that General Rosecrans would be placed at the head of the Committee on Military Affairs, but it is said that he would prefer the chairmanship of the Pacific Railroad Committee, and it is thought the Speaker may indulge him, although it is understood that Mr. Holman, who is tired of the drudgery the Committee on Claims, would be glad to have the place. It is thought that General Slo will be given the chairmanship of Military Affairs if General Rosecrans does not receive it. If Abram S. Hewitt accept a place on the Ways and

Means Committee it is believed that Mr, Morse, of Massachusetts, who supported Mr. Carlisle, will be made Chairman of the Naval Affairs Committee. Mr. Money, of Mississippi, it is thought, will have his old place at the head of the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads.

There was a suggestion that Mr. Cobb, of Indiana, might have the chairmanship of Public Lands, but he frankly declares that he does not want it, and now there is an impression that Mr. Moulton or Mr. Townshend, of Illinois, will get the place. It is also thought that Colonel Matson, of Indiana, will be appointed Chairman of Invalid Pensions, and Mr. Stockslager, of the same State, Chairman of Public Buildings and Grounds. It is believed that an Illinois man—probably Mr. Townshend or Mr. Moulton—will be Chairman of Caims, and Mr. Geddes, of Ohio, Chairman of War Claims.

A List Of Probabile Chairman. Means Committee it is believed that Mr. Morse, of Massa-

A LIST OF PROBABLE CHAIRMEN. From various sources the following list of probable chairmen of other committees is compiled: Public Expenditures, Keifer; Private Land Claims, Muldrow, District of Columbia, Barbour; Revision of Laws, McMillin; Expenditures Department of State, Belmont; Expenditures Treasury Department, Potter, New-York; Expenditures War Department, Winans, Michigan; Expenditures Interior Department, Bianchard; Expenditures Navy Department, Davidson, Florida; Expenditures Post Office Department, Morgan, Missouri; Expenditures Post Office Department, Morgan, Missouri; Expenditures Department of Justice, Covington; Expenditures on Public Buildings, Evins, South Carolina; Indian Affairs, Wellborn; Territories, Mills, of Texas; Raliways and Canals, Murphy, Iowa; Manufactures, Hopkins, Pennsylvania; Mines and Mining, Cassidy, Nevada; Levees and Improvements Mississippi River, Ellis; Education and Labor, Wilnis, Kentucky; Militia, Jones, Arkansas; Patents, Vance; Accounts, Lore, Delaware; Library, Dorsneimer; Printing, Springer; Reform in Civil Service, Curtin; Law Respecting Election of President and Vice-President, Abram S. Howitt; Alcohoic Liquor Traffic, Williams, Mabama; Public Health, Tarockmorton; Pensions, Bounty and Back Pay, Seymour, Connecticut; Additional Accommodations Library of Congress, Herbert, Alabama; Ventilation, King, Louisiana.

According to the foregoing estimate twenty-three chairmanships will go to the Northern States and twenty-seven to the Solid South. The Committee on Rules will probably be appointed to-morrow, and of this Mr. Carlisle, 28 Speaker, will be chairman, ex-officio.

BILLS FOR LAND GRANT FORFEITURE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]
WASHINGTON, Dec. 9,—To-morrow Representative Payson, of Illinois, will offer bills providing for the forfeiture of land grants, as follows: Texas Pacific, 15,000,000 acres; Oregon Central (Portland to Astoria), 1,130,000 acres; New-Orleans and Jackson, 1,000,000 acres (estimated); Elyton and Beards, 800,000 acres (estimated); Iron Mountain, Arkansas, 1,300,000 acres (estimated); Memphis and Charleston, 800,000 acres (estimated); Savannah and Albany, Ga., 1,200,000 acres; Gulf and Ship Island, Tuscaloosa and Mobile, and Mobile and New-Orleans, 1,500,000 acres (estimated); Ontonagan and State Line, 142,430,000 acros; Oregon and Callfornia, and California and Oregon railroads, unpatented, forma, and California and Oregon railroads, unpatented, 4,168,307 acres; from Mountain, Missouri, 601,000 acres; Northern Pacific, west of Fortland and east of Wallula, 5,004,000 acres; Mobile and Girard, 482,421 acres; Ablantic and Pacific, unpatented lands east of Albuquerque and west of Majaveo, about 15,000,000 acres.

These figures, actual and estimated, make a total of